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Augustus de Morgan on fallacy: pettyfoggers and controversialists

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"Augustus de Morgan on fallacy: pettyfoggers and controversialists"

Augustus DeMorgan wrote an influential nineteenth-century treatise on logic, *Formal Logic: The Calculus of Inference, Necessary and Probable*, whose treatment of fallacy contributes significantly to the conversation carried on from Bentham to Alfred Sidgwick. Representing fallacy as concerning only inferential processes, DeMorgan focuses on ambiguous matters where it is difficult to determine whether the error resides in the matter or the form. His unpacking of terminological slipperiness and tactical maneuvering pushes his discussion from the logical towards the rhetorical. This study of nineteenth-century fallacy theory identifies logic's rhetorical turn and pulls out a strand connecting the histories of logic and rhetoric.